

he didn't like to stay on the phone long, but he knew when you needed him, and he would be there. He was a compassionate and kind man, a side of him that many people did not see but many people also benefited from greatly over the years. It is my incredible honor to be able to hold the seat he occupied so well for so long.

Harry Reid accomplished so much as a Nevada Senator. Born in the little town of Searchlight, NV, he knew his home State better than anyone. He understood that Nevada was a microcosm of our country. He knew that Nevada's diversity mirrored this Nation's, and that is why Senator Reid worked to give Nevada a greater role in deciding each party's nominee for President. He wanted to ensure that a State as diverse and dynamic as Nevada played an important role in choosing America's leaders.

Harry Reid also understood Nevada's landscapes, from the desert outside of Searchlight that so many of us have heard about to the snowy peaks of the Ruby Mountains in winter, to the glistening waters of Lake Tahoe. He was a dedicated environmentalist who helped conserve Nevada's abundant national treasures, keeping our State beautiful for future generations and protecting outdoor recreation that fuels our State's economy.

And we all know he would not back down from a fight, especially when it involved Nevada; whether that was blocking every effort to dump nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain without Nevada's agreement or advocating for Federal funding to help upgrade Nevada's schools, airports, roads and bridges, he was relentless in his push to get our State the resources that we deserved.

Harry Reid was as diligent in supporting Nevada's rural and Tribal communities as he was in building up our world-class cities. He helped create Nevada's booming clean energy economy and make the State a destination for those looking to build an innovative, sustainable future.

The changes that he helped set in motion were so far-reaching that they allowed Nevada to benefit from the innovation economy of the 21st century. He paved the way for us. It isn't just Nevadans who are better off because of Harry Reid; the entire country gained because of his hard work and his dedication. He helped rescue the country by getting America through the great recession, taking extra care to support the hospitality and tourism economies that are so vital to the economy and the jobs in Nevada.

He was instrumental in protecting Nevada's and the Nation's Dreamers and immigrant families.

In his crowning legislative achievement, he fought tirelessly to get millions of Americans access to affordable healthcare. His work was key to ensuring that the Affordable Care Act became law, lowering healthcare costs and giving access to high-quality care to millions who didn't have it before.

Harry Reid was a great American, but first and foremost, he was a great Nevadan. He never forgot where he came from, and there is no doubt in my mind that is what motivated him every single day. As Nevada's son, he made a tremendous difference for our State and for every American. He was a wonderful friend and a true public servant and for that we will miss him in the Senate and across the Nation.

TRIBUTE TO CLINTON JEROME HILL

Mr. President, I would also like to talk a little bit today about another incredible American whom I have come to know. Both my husband and I, Paul and I, got to know this individual over the years. He has become a friend. He is an incredible American, and today is his birthday. His name is Clinton Jerome Hill.

Clint is a true hero, the iconic Secret Service agent who jumped onto a moving car while bullets flew in an effort to save President Kennedy from an assassination.

Born on this day in 1932, Clint Hill grew up in the tiny town of Washburn, ND. He was a good student; he loved music; and he was an outstanding athlete. Clint went on to attend Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, where he was a standout football and baseball player, graduating in 1954.

Though Clint had visions of being a history teacher and athletics coach, he was drafted immediately into the U.S. Army, where he worked in counter-intelligence in an Army field office in Denver, CO.

In 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower happened to be in Colorado on vacation when the President suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized for 7 weeks. That is when Clint ended up meeting several members of Eisenhower's Secret Service detail. He was deeply impressed with the dignity and demeanor of these fine men. At that time, there were just 269 agents in the entire Secret Service organization and, in 1958, Clint became one of them.

A year later, Agent Hill was assigned to the White House at age 27. He was one of a handful of men responsible for protecting the President of the United States. In 1959 and 1960, Clint Hill traveled with President Eisenhower on his goodwill tours to Europe, Asia, India, the Middle East, and South America.

When John F. Kennedy was elected President in 1960, Clint was assigned to protect the First Lady, Jacqueline Kennedy. Both President and Mrs. Kennedy were fond of Agent Hill and trusted him implicitly. Wherever Mrs. Kennedy went, Clint Hill was by her side.

And so it was that Agent Hill accompanied President and Mrs. Kennedy to Texas on November 22, 1963. Clint was present at the horrifying moment in Dealey Plaza when President Kennedy, riding in an open convertible, was shot. Clint immediately began to run toward the President's car to protect him, and many of us have seen that dramatic footage: Jackie Kennedy extending her hand back to Agent Hill, who leapt

onto the back of the moving car and jumped into the vehicle as it sped away to Parkland Hospital in Dallas.

After President Kennedy's tragic assassination, Clint Hill continued to protect Jacqueline Kennedy and her two children. Then, in 1964, he was transferred back to the White House. And in 1967, he became the Special Agent in Charge of Presidential Protection for President Lyndon Johnson. Throughout 1968, Clint was a Secret Service agent who had LBJ's back.

Clint Hill devoted his life to the Secret Service, ultimately being promoted to Assistant Director in Charge of all Protective Forces. He was married, had two sons, but like so many selfless Secret Service agents, he missed countless holidays, anniversaries, and birthdays.

In 1975, Clint retired from the Secret Service, a job and organization that he loved. In the years since, he has written three best-selling books about his work with his coauthor and now wife, Lisa McCubbin.

Today is Clint's 90th birthday. So, today, I want to pay tribute to a true American hero, a man who was willing to put his life on the line, not once but time and again to protect our leaders.

Now, I know something of the sacrifice this involves. My husband Paul is a retired Secret Service agent, and I am familiar with the commitment it takes for an agent to walk out that door every day to defend the President from threats. So on behalf of Paul, myself, the entire Masto family, we want to wish a happy birthday to our friend Clint Hill. Thank you for your service to our country and our sincere best wishes for many more wonderful years ahead.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I know that you are probably like me and you have been grateful for the time to be home and to see family and friends and just to chat with them about what is going on in their lives and the issues that are important to them, what they are looking at. It has been so interesting to get their perspective as we have visited.

I flipped through the papers yesterday, and I realize that many of our friends around town have this renewed sense of optimism about President Biden's ability to lead the country. I found that really quite interesting. You could look at it and say: It may be a new year, but it is the same old Biden.

It goes without saying that I do not share what I see as a misguided view. I entered this year with the same

healthy skepticism that I had back in December as we were finishing that legislative year. I will say this; that for the past year, the Democratic majority has indulged an administration that has treated their electoral victory like a mandate to enact some of the most irresponsible and radical policies we have seen in over a generation.

Now they are dusting off an agenda that is so unhinged, it has kept the Democrats deadlocked against one another for the year. We have seen this agenda breed mistrust, tension, and anger between the American people and their government. Few, if any, of those people could state that they are better off now than they were under President Trump and Republican leadership. But still, the Democratic majority has continued to push Biden's agenda on behalf of the most radical portions of their base.

Yes, leaning left—they are leaning far left. They are listening to the social justice warriors and the climate partisans and the Big Government activists, and the Democratic leadership is doing exactly what they are telling them they want done. Meanwhile, they are ignoring the people back home who actually have to deal with the consequences of this political tunnel vision.

Time after time in poll after poll, even more polls that have come out today, the American people have made it abundantly clear that they are not just dissatisfied with the President's failure to lead, with his radical agenda—you know what, they are not just angry. What I learned from Tennesseans is that people are really frightened by what they see taking place with this far-left, hard-left turn.

President Biden has to know all of this. The Democratic leadership has to know all of this. Look at all the polls. It doesn't matter if it is NPR, it doesn't matter if it is AP, it doesn't matter if it is CNN, the agenda, the President, the Vice President—they are all underwater. I think they have probably seen this coming since day one of this disastrous administration.

Take some of the specific issues. The Democratic leadership has had a front row seat to what is happening on the southern border. So has the administration. There has been a complete collapse of our Nation's sovereignty at the southern border. With the stroke of a pen, President Biden dismantled the policies that were keeping us safe. He invited waves of illegal immigrants into the country, said: Y'all come. Y'all come. We are ready for you.

He threw the Border Patrol and local law enforcement under the bus, did not listen to them. You don't have to take my word for it. Go to the southern border. Go visit with them.

He has let the cartel step into the leadership void at the southern border. The drug dealers and the human traffickers are in control of the southern border at this point in time. You do not cross that border unless you have

paid the cartels. But you know what, admitting this does not fit the agenda of the Democratic leadership, so they just ignore it. Now, President Biden and my Democratic colleagues continue to evade responsibility for keeping the border secure and safeguarding the national security. They don't want to talk about that.

They are also not wanting to talk about the threat posed by the Chinese Communist Party and our other adversaries abroad. And that is right—the Chinese Communist Party is an adversary. They are not a competitor. They are not a friend or a frenemy. They are an adversary. What are they doing? They are conducting surveillance, academic espionage, and intellectual property theft. They are doing this every single day. It is all part of the standing operating procedures of the new axis of evil and all being ignored by people who are charged with running this country, keeping this country safe.

Tennesseans will tell you they are very concerned. The American people are very concerned. The polls are showing it. And they are blaming the Biden administration for not feeling safe, not feeling secure, for the supply chain crisis, for inflation. These are all things that have been brought about in the past year by decisions this administration has made, Executive orders they have executed.

Every time people in this country pick up their phone, they are faced with the knowledge that many of the programs and social media platforms that they once enjoyed are controlled by people who refuse to prioritize privacy and data security and realize that these cyber protections are important.

They are grateful for all the sunlight that you and I, Mr. President, have been able to shine on the problems with Big Tech. So many times as I was at home, people would mention to me how much they have learned through the hearings that we have held, the roundtable discussions, and they are wanting to see more attention brought to keeping us safe and limiting the surveillance, the property theft, and the academic espionage that the Chinese Communist Party and our adversaries are conducting in the virtual space. They are looking forward to seeing us translate this bipartisan consensus into action. They are looking forward to what we are going to deliver when it comes to online privacy, data security, section 230 reforms, to protect our innovators, to protect our children online, to protect our consumers.

When people look at what is being done, like the work we have done on technology policy, and what is not being done when it comes to addressing China, addressing Russia, dealing with Iran, when it comes to dealing with inflation, prices at the pump, and prices that are happening at the grocery store, they look at this and they say: Where is the President? Where is the Vice President? Where are people who should be working for the American people in Congress?

When we talk about the Democratic leadership, we know that they are too busy catering to the most radical fringe of the Democratic Party to do their job, and they are too busy with that to govern or to keep the economy in one piece and to keep the border intact or to provide for the common defense or to exercise a little oversight over some of the world's most powerful corporations.

Well, the American people deserve better. Tennesseans are wanting to see action. So while some of our colleagues across the aisle have a renewed sense of optimism about President Biden's ability to pull them out of this skid on this agenda that is going nowhere, the American people have spoken. They do not want what you are offering.

My resolve is going to be to stand here, to stand between what is happening, this destructive, as I call it, "Build Back Broke" agenda, and to protect Tennesseans and future generations of Americans from such an adverse and negative impact.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the Democrats' agenda for the new year.

The American people have just come back from the most expensive Christmas in our Nation's history, coronavirus cases are breaking records all around the country, and many Americans spent their Christmas with their travel plans canceled.

Joe Biden now enters his second year in office with record-high inflation, record-high coronavirus cases, and a record-low approval rating. Now, Joe Biden is breaking all kinds of records, and each of these records reflects an America that is heading in the wrong direction.

The American people have two major concerns right now: coronavirus and what it costs to live their daily lives. Yet these two issues are not even on the radar of Democrats in Washington, DC.

In fact, Democrats have only made these problems worse. First, Democrats have unquestionably driven up the cost of living on American families. Inflation shot up after Democrats put \$2 trillion on America's credit card this spring.

Democrats told us inflation was transitory. They said it month after month after month. On the day after Christmas, Margaret Brennan of CBS News asked the Vice President a very basic question. She asked: Was it wrong to consider inflation transitory?